



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building
1 Federal Drive
Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4056

FWS/NWRS-CP

May 10, 2006

Dear Reader:

We are pleased to provide you with this Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment for Mingo, Pilot Knob, and Ozark Cavefish National Wildlife Refuges.

This draft plan has benefited from the contributions of many neighbors, representatives of non-government organizations, Missouri Department of Conservation staff members, and staff from other federal agencies. Once completed, the CCP will guide management for the next 15 years and help the Refuges meet their original purposes and contribute to the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The CCP will provide both broad and specific guidance on various issues; set a vision, goals, and measurable objectives; and outline strategies for reaching those objectives.

We invite your review of the draft CCP and Environmental Assessment and, most importantly, your comment and counsel to help ensure that the final CCP is both visionary and practical. We will host an open house where you will be able to ask questions, seek understanding, and voice concerns and suggestions. A meeting date and location will be announced through the media and other means.

Written comments are also welcome during the 30-day comment period and should be addressed to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Division of Conservation Planning, Attn: Mingo, Pilot Knob, Ozark Cavefish NWRs Comment, BHW Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Ft. Snelling, MN 55111. You may also send comments to us through the following web address: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/mingo/index.html>. To be considered in preparing the final CCP, comments must be received by July 10, 2006.

We look forward to continuing the dialogue on the future of the Refuge, and thank you for your continued interest in keeping this Refuge a special place.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Larson
Chief, Conservation Planning

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